

In re Patent Application of:  
**PEZZINI**  
Serial No. 10/713,541  
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**In the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0002] on page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In many areas of application for microcontroller control systems, where it is important to ensure reliability of control routines being executed, the control system ~~must~~ should be able to automatically detect malfunctions or faults in circuits and electrical connections that may occur. For instance, malfunctions or faults in the connections to the printed circuit board or in the bond wire connection to the pads of the integrated circuit should be detected.

Please replace paragraph [0005] on page 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

However, the introduction of these resistors may determine set time constants having such a value that they will influence a correct functioning of the converter, or at least noticeably lengthen the sampling time and thus the total conversion time. As a result, in the successive approximations analog-to-digital converter, such as those commonly used in these integrated systems, the conversion time may become excessively long and thus noticeably hinder the performance of the control system.